

State of South Dakota

NINETY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2017

826Y0555

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Introduced by: Senators Tapio, Curd, Jensen (Phil), Langer, Maher, Nelson, Novstrup, and Russell and Representatives Dennert, Brunner, Campbell, Goodwin, Greenfield (Lana), Haugaard, Jensen (Kevin), Kaiser, Livermont, Marty, May, Pischke, and Qualm

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Expressing a lack of confidence in the refugee resettlement
2 program.

3 WHEREAS, America is the beacon of hope and freedom for those living in fear and tyranny
4 around the world; and

5 WHEREAS, America is an open and pluralist society guided by the rule of law; and

6 WHEREAS, America recognizes the sovereignty of each person and constitutionally
7 protects each person's God-given freedom to think, believe, speak, and act according to each
8 person's own conscience, without fear of retribution, punishment, or death, so long as the
9 exercise of those freedoms do not impede upon another's freedom; and

10 WHEREAS, these freedoms are so important, the United States Constitution provides the
11 right to bear arms in order to protect those freedoms; and

12 WHEREAS, America has welcomed more legal immigrants and refugees than any country
13 in the world, and continues to welcome immigrants and refugees who agree with those freedoms
14 guaranteed in the United States Constitution; and



1 WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota has a long history of accepting immigrants and
2 refugees from around the world; and

3 WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota has ceded the state's authority and has no direct
4 influence on the implementation or administration of the refugee resettlement program; and

5 WHEREAS, the United Nations, the United States Department of State, and an unelected
6 nonprofit organization is solely responsible for implementing the refugee resettlement program,
7 and for assessing the impact the program has on South Dakota towns and communities, leaving
8 the citizens of South Dakota without a proper avenue to petition the government regarding the
9 refugee resettlement program; and

10 WHEREAS, citizens of South Dakota do not have access to information regarding the
11 financial impact on state and local governments regarding police and fire departments, the
12 criminal justice system, education system, health care system , and other social services and
13 welfare benefits; and

14 WHEREAS, the societal impact of accepting refugees from countries where ninety-eight
15 percent of females undergo forced female genital mutilation, where practices of honor killings
16 and dancing chai boys exist, and where other cultural practices antithetical to freedom and
17 liberty are exercised is unknown; and

18 WHEREAS, refugees and their children have been involved in terrorist attacks domestically
19 and have joined ISIS and other known terrorist organizations around the world; and

20 WHEREAS, refugees are being accepted from countries that impose the death penalty for
21 laws of apostasy and laws of blasphemy, and these laws and beliefs are not compatible with the
22 United States Constitution, the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, and a pluralist, open,
23 peaceful society:

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Second Legislature

1 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South
2 Dakota Legislature, having legitimate concerns about the refugee resettlement program and the
3 vetting process, and having further concerns about the ability of the vetting process to protect
4 the safety of American citizens and the United States Constitution, offer a vote of no confidence
5 in the refugee resettlement program, and the administration thereof.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature recommends that our
7 United States Congressional Delegation, in conjunction with the Trump Administration, pursue
8 a policy of extreme vetting for the above considerations.